GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4468
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Pornography on Social Media
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Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of Electronics & Information Technology be pleased to state:-
(a) whether the Government plans to set up a specialized central institutional mechanism to block and curb sharing of sexually offensive videos on social networking platforms to check cybercrimes and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government is aware of the rampant misuse of social media by paedophiles and sex offenders to intimidate and harass women and children and if so, the details of action proposed in this regard;
(c) whether cyber pornography, especially involving children has grown by alarming proportions in India over the years and if so, the steps taken to prevent and block streaming of online pornography and especially child pornography;
(d) whether the Government has sought the intervention of international policing agencies for cooperation and sharing of intelligence and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) whether the Government is attempting to persuade websites operating from abroad to set up servers in India to assist remove after illegal and unwarranted contents?

Answer

(a): Ministry of Home Affairs is executing a project on Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC), which will also act as specialized central institutional mechanism for online cyber crime reporting platform particularly cybercrime against women and children.

(b), (c), (d) and (e): No such study has been done by Government capturing misuse of social media by paedophiles and sex offenders to intimidate and harass women and children. However, as per the data maintained by National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), a total of 749 and 792 cases were registered under publishing or transmitting of material containing sexually explicit act, etc., in electronic form (section 67 & 67A IT of Act) and a total of 5 and 8 cases were registered under publishing or transmitting of material depicting children in sexually explicit act, etc., in electronic form (section 67B IT of Act) during 2014-2015. Further, a total of 40 cases in 2014 and 94 cases in 2015 were registered under Sections 14 & 15 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

Cyber world is anonymous and universally available. Most of the child pornographic websites are hosted from outside India. INTERPOL maintains and updates list of "worst of list" on extreme child sexual abuse. Government periodically blocks this list shared by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as the national crime bureau of INTERPOL. More than 3000 such websites/URLs have been blocked so far.

Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has provisions for removal of objectionable online content. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 notified under section 79 of the IT Act require that the Intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable, affect minors and unlawful in any way.

Government is in regular touch with intermediaries including various social media websites to effectively address the blocking/removal of objectionable content. Further, Social Networking sites hosted anywhere in the world are monitored by the law enforcement agencies in order to check / remove objectionable contents from the web sites in accordance with the provisions of IT Act, 2000.
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